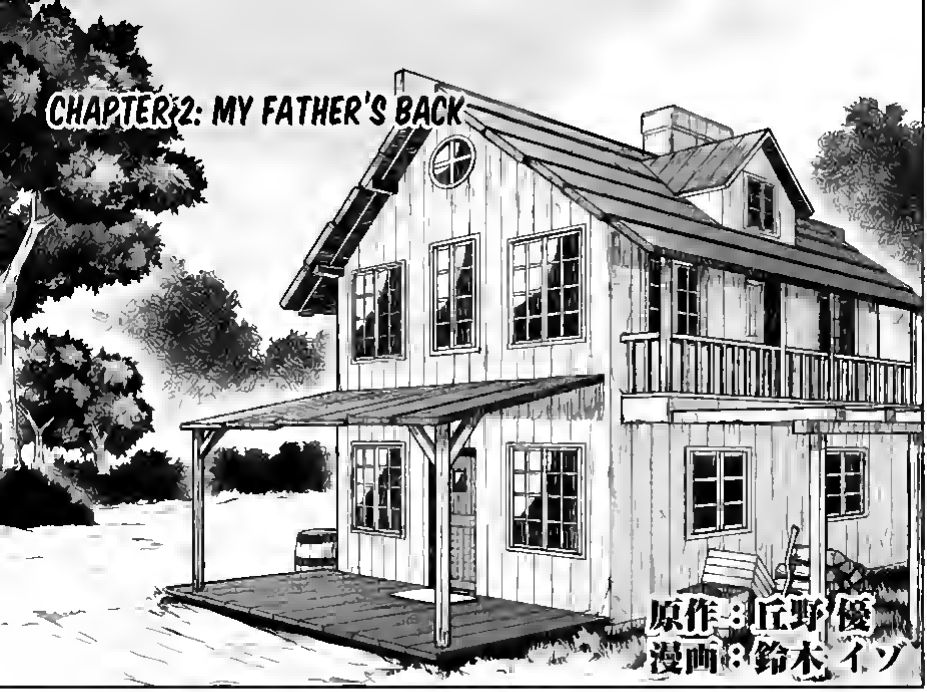
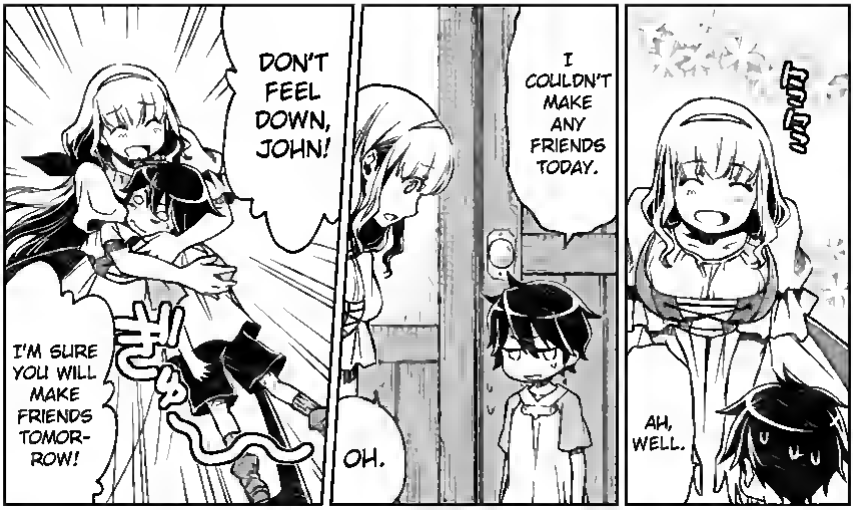

CHAPTER 2: MY FATHER'S BACK
原作：丘野優
漫画：鈴木イゾ

I'M HOME, MOM.
WELCOME BACK, JOHN.
DINNER'S READY.


DON'T FEEL DOWN, JOHN!
I'M SURE YOU WILL MAKE FRIENDS TOMOR-ROW!
I COULDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS TODAY.
OH.
AH, WELL.

DON'T WORRY! AFTER ALL, YOU ARE A GOOD KID.

AH.
MOM... I CAN'T BREATHE ...

WHICH REMINDS ME.
WE JUST RE-CIEVED ...
A LETTER FROM ALLEN--YOUR FATHER-- SAYING THAT HE HAS MANAGED TO GET SOME TIME OFF SO HE IS COMING BACK HOME.
REALLY ?!
ガタッ
ALLEN TOLD ME THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO BRING YOU TO THE FOREST THIS TIME... I'M A LITTLE BIT WORRIED.
IT'S ALL RIGHT! BECAUSE DAD WILL BE WITH ME!
WELL... IF ALLEN IS WITH YOU I GUESS I CAN RELAX.
ME TOO!
THE LAST TIME HE CAME BACK WAS HALF A YEAR AGO, WASN'T IT?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

AND IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD MONSTERS ON THE DINING TABLE.
HEH-HEH! I CAN'T WAIT!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY FATHER HUNTS MONSTERS.

MY FATHER IS A SOLDIER. HE DEFENDS THE FORTRESS IN "DEMON FOREST" A FOREST CLOSE TO THE BORDER WHERE MONSTERS APPEAR.
THE MONSTER'S BEHAVIOR IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF NORMAL ANIMALS AND THEIR STRENGTH IS INCOMPARABLE.
IN VILLAGES DEDICATED TO WOODCUTTING LIKE OURS IT'S NECESSARY TO PERFORM PERIODICAL EXTERMINATIONS OF THE MONSTERS.

SO, ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS, MY FATHER IS SUMMONED TO THE VILLAGE
AND EXTERMINATES THE MONSTERS AROUND THE EDGE OF THE FOREST.
DAD SAID I COULD ENTER THE FOREST BY MYSELF IF I LANDED A BLOW ON HIM!

MY, HOW SURPRISING!
DID ALLEN REALLY MAKE THAT KIND OF PROMISE WITH YOU, JOHN?
OF COURSE, A NORMAL CHILD WOULD NEVER IN ABLE TO LAND A SINGLE BLOW ON THAT FATHER OF MINE.
BUT I AM NOT A NORMAL CHILD.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING MY SWORDPLAY AND MY MAGIC EVERY SINGLE DAY.
HEHEH...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN I LAND A BLOW ON HIM
OH, YOU'RE EATING A LOT.
WE HAVE SECONDS IF YOU WANT.

OF COURSE!
I WILL COME BACK WITH HUGE SPOILS SO LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
ALLEN! BE CAREFUL!
H-HEY! JOHN CAN SEE US...
Oh my— It's okay, isn't it?
.....
Yes! Take care!
And give me a kiss!
AH,
Y, YES ...
ARE YOU READY?!
OKAY, JOHN, LET'S GO!

IT'S GOING TO BE DARK EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, SO
WATCH YOUR STEP WHEN YOU WALK.
YEAH ...
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...

WHY IN THE WORLD IS TED HERE AS WELL?!
MR. ALLEN, CAN THE MONSTERS APPEAR ALREADY?
OH TED! IF THEY COME OUT I'LL TELL YOU SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
YES, SIR!
YOUR FATHER ASKED ME TO SHOW YOU THE FOREST.
SO IF POSSIBLE I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE HUNTING SPOT OF MONSTERS AS WELL.
I SEE... THIS GUY'S FATHER IS A HUNTER.
SO HE WANTS TO SEE THE HUNTING SPOT OF MONSTERS,
HM

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HEY, YOU TWO…
ARE YOU REALLY THAT INTERESTED IN ONE ANOTHER?

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S ANYTHING BAD, BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER TO STOP THAT KIND OF MALE BONDING...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DAD!!
GIVE ME A BREAK, MR. ALLEN!
EH? SO... IS THERE ANY GIRL YOU LIKE?
NATU-RALLY, FOR ME THERE IS ONLY EMILY.
THERE IS!! OF COURSE THERE IS!! THE ONE I LIKE IS KAREN!!

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OH...
ハァ...
ヤァアァッ
HAHAHA-HAHAHA! YOU TWO GET ALONG QUITE WELL, DON'T YOU!
I'M GLAD!
WE'RE NOT GLAD AT ALL!!
DAMN IT.
SO YOU ALSO LIKE KAREN, HUH?
WELL, YEAH...
KAREN IS MY ONLY FRIEND...
.....

AHHH! IF I HAD KNOWN THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE AVOIDED YOU.
I WOULD'VE EVEN MADE YOU A PART OF MY GROUP!
HERE!
!
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN AVOIDING YOU.
FROM NOW ON, WE ARE FRIENDS!
RIGHT?

WH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! DON'T CRY!
I'M SORRY!
じぃ…
……
FRIENDS
……
WHY DID YOU THINK I WAS WEIRD?
WHY? WELL…
AH, AND THAT THING ABOUT KAREN IS A SECRET BETWEEN US, GOT IT?!
YEAH …
WHAT A SURPRISE … SEEING YOU ACT LIKE THIS, YOU'RE PRETTY NORMAL.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MUCH WEIRDER GUY.

HE...
HE SAW ME...?!
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE, YOU KNOW
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE...
!!
YOU... CAN USE MAGIC, RIGHT?
!
GOT IT?
IN EXCHANGE, I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME SOMETIME!
YEAH!
BUT THAT'S ALSO A SECRET, OKAY?
...I GOT IT,
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HERE IT COMES!
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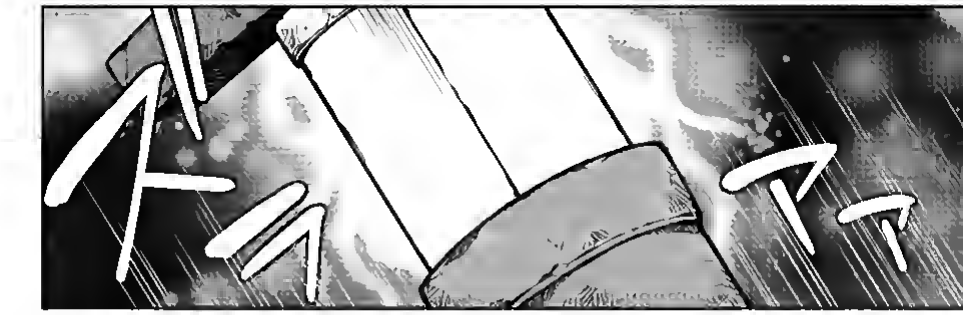

HE CAN IMBUE HIS WEAPON WITH MAGIC IN AN INSTANT.
AND AT THE SAME TIME, HE CAN SUMMON HIGH LEVELS OF STRENGTH IN HIS BODY. HE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY KIND OF SWORDSMAN.

DEMON SWORD-SMAN
THAT IS THE NAME THAT SYMBOLIZES HIS POWER.
AND THAT'S WHY MY FATHER IS IN CHARGE OF SAFEGUARDING A TOP CLASS DANGER ZONE LIKE DEMON FOREST.

...A CRYSTAL WOLF...!
WHAT?!
I DIDN'T THINK SUCH A POWERFUL BEAST COULD BE LIVING IN THIS FOREST.
EVEN IN DEMON FOREST, YOU CAN'T FIND THIS GUY WITHOUT GOING REALLY DEEP, YOU KNOW? YOU GUYS ARE REALLY LUCKY!

HERE IT COMES!

A...
AMAZ-
ING!
NOW I
UNDER-
STAND.
IN ONE BLINK,
JUST HOW
MUCH MAGICAL
ENERGY HE IS
PUTTING IN
THAT SLASH.
MY FATHER IS
SO AMAZING...
MY
FATHER...

WAS HE REALLY THIS STRONG?

AHH!
...
HEY HEY, NOT BAD AT ALL.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME A MONSTER HAS BEEN ABLE TO AVOID MY FIRST STRIKE,

!!
THIS IS BAD! THAT'S A...

HOT CHOCOLATE SCANS

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